

Commonwealth welcomes advances in policing policy at Australasian Police Ministers' Council

Important developments in indigenous policing, enhanced police information and intelligence systems, missing persons investigation, and the management of firearms, at the Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) today, have been welcomed by the Federal Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison.

"Day to day policing throughout Australia should be more efficient and safer following the outcomes of today's APMC meeting," Senator Ellison said.

Among the resolutions reached today were the following:

CrimTrac

APMC agreed to a national roll out and cost sharing arrangements for CrimTrac's Minimum Nationwide Person Profile (MNPP) initiative.

This clears the way for the new system to boost crime clear-up rates, enhance investigation efficiency and provide a safer working environment to every front-line officer.

"CrimTrac was established to facilitate data and information sharing for Australia's police: the support MNPP provides will be accurate, immediate and tangible for the men and women who need it most," Senator Ellison said.

"Information provided through the MNPP initiative will provide police with richer, more accessible and comprehensive information, giving police in the field instant access to nation-wide policing information on persons of interest."

The Commonwealth provided \$11 million for a successful New South Wales and Victoria pilot, and had offered an additional \$7.4million for the national roll-out.

Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania should roll out the MNPP over the next year, with New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Queensland joining by mid 2008.

Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Taskforce

APMC has proposed for consideration by COAG on the 14th July 2006 an Intelligence Taskforce on indigenous violence and child sex abuse which will have a dedicated national capacity to collect, collate, analyse and share information in relation to incidents of family violence and child abuse in remote indigenous communities.

"Such a Taskforce would provide all jurisdictions with better information to target communities experiencing the most serious problems, and a better basis for developing policing strategies in this difficult and complex area," Senator Ellison said.

Commonwealth funding and personnel from the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Federal Police and the States and Territories is also proposed.

National firearms management system

The Federal, State and Territory governments agreed in principle to a business case to examine, in detail, the cost of designing and implementing a national firearms management system.

Senator Ellison said he was pleased that States and Territories had agreed to contribute to this vitally important project.

“I also note that members of the Sporting Shooters and Firearms Advisory Council, which includes representatives of sporting shooters, firearms dealers, manufacturers, importers, exporters, farmers, the security industry and film armourers, have actively and constructively contributed to the discussions about a national system,” Senator Ellison said.

“I am confident this resolution represents a positive development in firearms management in Australia.

"A national firearms management system will provide substantial benefits for the Australian, State and Territory governments and all firearms stakeholders, and this business case is a very important step forward in achieving a national system."

Senator Ellison also took the opportunity to update the States and Territories on the excellent work being done by Australian police officers in East Timor and to thank participating jurisdictions for their contribution to this important task.

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